

BOLD FORGER AND IMPOSTOR

HE OPERATES UNDER SEVERAL NAMES
AND WITH SUCCESS

Tries to Deceive the President of the Media Academy With a Bogus Draft—Gets \$50 From Rev. Father Donahue—Recognized and Arrested Here

On the 6th instant Mr. Swifton C. Shortidge, principal of the Media (Pa.) Academy for Men and Boys, received a telegram from Philadelphia signed William M. Law, asking for an interview with him that night. Another dispatch was soon afterwards received from the same party stating that he would come the next day. On the 7th instant Mr. Shortidge received a letter from Law, in which he expressed his intention of putting his 16-year-old son in the academy. Law was met at the Media station by Mr. Short-

After dinner Law was shown around the building and grounds, and expressed himself much pleased with the arrangements. He told Mr. Shortridge that he was the postmaster of Savannah, Ga., and that he was related to Gen. Gordon, and that he would place his son and also Gen. Gordon's son in the academy. After learning the terms of the school, Law

drew up a draft of \$300 on the Bank of America, New York city. The amount due was \$250. Mr. Shortridge went to the bank at Media and drew the money. On the way back to the academy he became suspicious of Law and hesitated about paying the \$50 balance due Law. He determined to get out of handing the money to Law until he could learn from the Bank of America if Law's credit was good. Seeing Law again, he apologized to him for not being able to pay the balance.

He could be seen in Philadelphia the next day. "I must take the 3:40 train, and it is within a few minutes of train time now, and you can see me at Green's tomorrow," said Law, and he left for the station. He did not catch the train, nor did he take the train that left at 3:40 p. m. Mr. Shortridge was satisfied that the man was

graphed Mr. Shortridge that they did not know Law and would not honor the draft. Nothing was seen of Law until last night, when Mr. Shortridge, who happened to be in this city, was coming down Pennsylvania avenue, and when near Thirteenth street a man suddenly ran against him and as suddenly darted away. Mr. Shortridge, however, caught a glimpse of the man's face, and it was that of Law's. The latter jumped a car, and Mr. Shortridge

proved himself as quick as Law and kept up with the car until he saw an officer, who arrested Law, and took him to the first precinct station. At the station house Law called Mr. Shortlidge by name, and when the latter confronted him with the draft he admitted his guilt. Mr. Shortlidge also remembered receiving a letter from a man in Lancaster, Pa., July 19, signing himself Thomas Corwin, and asking for a catalogue of the academy. On comparing the letters the handwriting was similar. "I never

"That is the man,"

"I am glad to know it," was the reply. Swallow, alias Law, alias Corwin, came

to this city last week, and on the 13th instant he went to Fredericksburg, where he made himself known to Postmaster Forbes. He registered at the Central Hotel in this city and made the acquaintance of several prominent citizens to whom he talked freely of the war. He brought with him letter of introduction from Gen. Jas. L. Kemper, Gen. Joe Johnston, Gen. Longstreet, and others, commending him highly. He presented to Father Donohue a forged letter of introduction from Archbishop McCloskey.

and announced himself as a devout Catholic. He dined with Father Donohue. Passing the National Bank in company with Father Donohue, Swallow remembered he had with him a draft drawn in his favor by Hamilton, Clay & Co., bankers of Louisville on Brown Bros., of New York, for \$50, and as he was a stranger he asked Father Donohue to identify him. Mr. Taylor, the cashier, only paid the money on Father Donohue's indorsement.

After receiving the money, Swallow parted company with the priest, stating that he was going to visit the Hedge of Stafford after dinner. That was the last seen of Swallow. Father Donohue on Sunday was surprised at receiving a letter, postmarked Washington, from Swallow, saying he had heard that some unpleasant rumor about him were in circulation in Frederickburg, and that he was not a crooked man, but would pay the money back on the presentation of the draft.

Maj. Walker was telegraphed to arrest Swallow, and the police were put on his trail, but Mr. Shortlidge's keen detective acumen outwitted the police and succeeded in replacing the accomplished swindler in a safe place. A few weeks ago a statement was published of a man being pardoned out of a Kentucky penitentiary by the governor of Kentucky for committing crimes of

similar character. Cassius Taylor showed Mr. Carmichael of the National Bank of Fredericksburg the draft, and he identified the same as that of the pardoned man.

THE PRISONER'S STORY.

A reporter for the REPUBLICAN went to the first precinct station house and was shown to the cell of the forger.

"Well, Mr. Swallow, don't you know me?" he asked.

A man answering the description gave a vigorous shake of the head.

"No, I don't think I do," he answered.

"Didn't you see me at Fredericksburg?"

"I don't remember you."

"Well, Father Donohue wants to know how you feel about that matter. He is inclined to be easy on you."

"You can tell Father Donohue or anyone else that anything I owe them will be paid. The way of that matter was justified: I went to Fredericksburg to write up the battles which occurred in that vicinity."

He asserted his ability as a writer of magazine and other articles, and said he had a national reputation under the name of Swallow. He had been a prominent officer in the confederate army, and was greatly afraid his reputation would be sullied, if he said he had a wife and son living, since the war in Georgia, the former being a sergeant.

sufferer from heart disease. He expressed a great desire to fall into the hands of Virginia justice, saying he feared his northern prosecutor would be severe on him while he looked for clemency in the south. He protested that the two cases of his practicing forgery in Fredericksburg and Media were the only cases which had attempted to get money on false pretenses. He had begun drinking five years ago when he adopted his plan of procur-

"You knew I was a reporter when I can here, did you?" asked his questioner.

"No, I did not," he replied. I thought you were from Father Donohue, as you represented, especially because you look like a clergyman."

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G. A. R. Veterans in Chicago.
Chicago, Aug. 17.—The Veteran Zouaves, 8, Grant Post of G. A. R., of Elizabeth, N. J. arrived here this afternoon on their...

from San Francisco. They were tendered escort from the depot to their hotel by U. S. Grant Post 23 of this city and by a company of the First Infantry, U. S. A. They will leave Philadelphia to-morrow night.